

INSIDE FORT MCMURRAY

One man who ignored the evacuation order



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economy
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Ottawa drivers getting slower?

Ottawa police are handing out fewer speeding tickets, data shows. Are drivers losing their need for speed or better at not getting caught? There are several theories for the decline **metroNEWS**

Lace up your skates — inside a box

PILOT PROJECT

City wants to replace change rooms with steel boxes



**Haley
Ritchie**
Metro | Ottawa

There's nothing more Canadian than lacing up a pair of skates inside an old shipping container.

Wait, what?

It turns out that's one idea the City of Ottawa is kicking around.

It's part of a trendy and economical pilot project to transform the 20-foot steel boxes into mobile and "architecturally distinctive" change rooms for skaters.

"The city is looking for an economical solution and a standardized approach over a masonry built or wood framed built rink changing station for outdoor rinks," says a request for proposals the city put out

on Wednesday.

Interested companies need to have done this sort of thing before.

The City of Ottawa is the "largest provider of outdoor rinks in North America," according to the request for proposals. The final design would be expected to complement city parks, and feel safe and inviting with windows and transparent panels.

City spokesperson Marielle Picher said this is part of a pilot project under the cash-in-lieu of parkland funding available to councillors.

Shipping containers are not hard to buy in Ottawa — a quick search on Kijiji brings up around 20 different sellers. Most are sold for around \$2,000.

In June 2015, a 28-year-old man from Carp put his stylish eco-friendly home — made from three shipping containers — up for sale and made nationwide headlines.

The popularity of "shipping container architecture" has grown in the past decade, attributed to their low cost and durability.



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'We want to survive'

BUSINESS

Cabbie starts own app-based competitor to Uber service



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa taxi driver and his wife are taking on ride-sharing giant Uber and potentially snubbing taxi dispatcher Coventry Connections by luring licensed drivers to work for their own app-based taxi service, O-Taxi.

Watany Ben Jamil and his wife, Emman, who owns a taxi plate, launched the new service this week, which aims to match drivers with users of the mobile app, much like Uber.

The major difference is the drivers are licensed taxi drivers and there is no surge pricing. Ben Jamil said drivers keep 100 per cent of the fare, customers can pay with credit or cash, and tipping will be optional, they said.

For now, the service is being run as a not-for-profit.

"We're not in it for the money. We just want (drivers) to survive and to move on," said Emman, who also works in the federal public service.



Emman Ben Jamil and her husband Watany have launched a new taxi app. JOE LOFARO/METRO

"This is about survival."

The idea came as the couple worked for the Airport fleet and grew frustrated by the lockout that has dragged on since last summer. Drivers of the fleet say they have been hit hard after Coventry Connections opened up their exclusive stands at the airport to all cab drivers last year.

With the controversial legalization of Uber in Ottawa now months away, taxi drivers are under more pressure than ever to keep their industry afloat.

The couple says O-Taxi is a competitor to Uber, not Coventry Connections.

But if drivers flock to the new service and escape dispatch fees they normally pay to Coventry Connections, the dispatcher could potentially face a financial hit.

"We're not doing this to go against the dispatch service, we're doing this for a survival means mechanism for current drivers out there who have nothing," said Emman.

"We have actually Blueline

drivers who call my husband frequently who want to go on board. We have some Capital who have voiced their interest, as well as definitely the Ottawa Airport (fleet)."

Hanif Patni, president and CEO of Coventry Connections, declined an interview request on Wednesday. "We have no comment to make on this," he wrote in an email.

Meanwhile, the City of Ottawa says it only recently became aware of the service and is investigating.

LABOUR

Child-care workers at Y vote to strike

Child-care workers at two YMCA locations in Orleans and one downtown are closer to going on strike for better wages, after holding a vote Tuesday night.

Among the 33 workers at the three locations, 22 employees voted in favour of a strike and one opposed. The affected centres are located at 180 Argyle Ave., 265 Centrum Blvd., and 2080 Portobello Blvd.

Abigail Kidd, union education officer at CUPE 2204, said employees also want a better pension and benefits.

"All the other child-care centres in our union make better wages," said Kidd. "They all have better benefit plans, and they all have better pensions."

The salary for child-care workers is capped at \$37,900, according to Kidd, whereas workers in similar positions in other centres, such as Andrew Fleck Child Care Services, are paid a higher wage.

A conciliation date with the YMCA is set for June 20. Kidd said it is possible, but unlikely the workers would go on strike before then. JOE LOFARO/METRO

EDUCATION

Job cut proposals upset teacher union



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is speaking out about impending job cuts in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's proposed budget.

Proposed cuts include 16.5 educational assistants, 10 early childhood educators, one psychologist and 11.25 school office staff.

"All other staff students, parents and the community will be impacted by an increased workload and loss of support," said Nancy Akehurst, local district vice-president of OSSTF, adding that the union wants to see the board do more lobbying to increase funds.

The board's chief financial officer, Mike Carson, said the trustees and staff are actively involved in consultations and committees with the province around funding levels.



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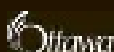
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Fewer tickets being handed out

SPEEDING

Lack of police resources could be reason for decline



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Either Ottawa drivers are losing their need for speed, or they're doing a better job of not getting caught.

Whatever the case may be, new figures released through a freedom-of-information request show Ottawa police are handing out fewer speeding tickets.

Police issued 15,318 speeding tickets in 2015 — down from 21,712 in 2011. That's a 29-per-cent decrease.

In fact, the number of tickets steadily dropped between 2011 and 2015, dipping as low as 14,948 tickets issued in 2014.

There are several theories for the decline.

Sgt. Mark Gatien in traffic enforcement said resources have been increasingly diverted to illegal cell phone use.

"(Distracted driving) has

become a more serious issue than impaired driving, so we're starting to focus more on cellphone enforcement than speeding," Gatien said.

Ticket counts for distracted driving were not immediately available. Another reason, according to Coun. Riley Brockington, is lack of traf-

fic enforcement resources.

"The police chief will tell you that over the past three years, the amount of officers he's had on the road enforcing speeding has gone down," Brockington said.

"He's taken his three traffic units ... and he's put those resources into other priorities."

For example, some officers were re-assigned last year to the guns and gangs unit as the city dealt with record levels of shootings.

On Wednesday, council supported a photo radar pilot project, which, if the province agrees, would allow councillors to use cameras

in school zones to catch excessive speeders, instead of using cops.

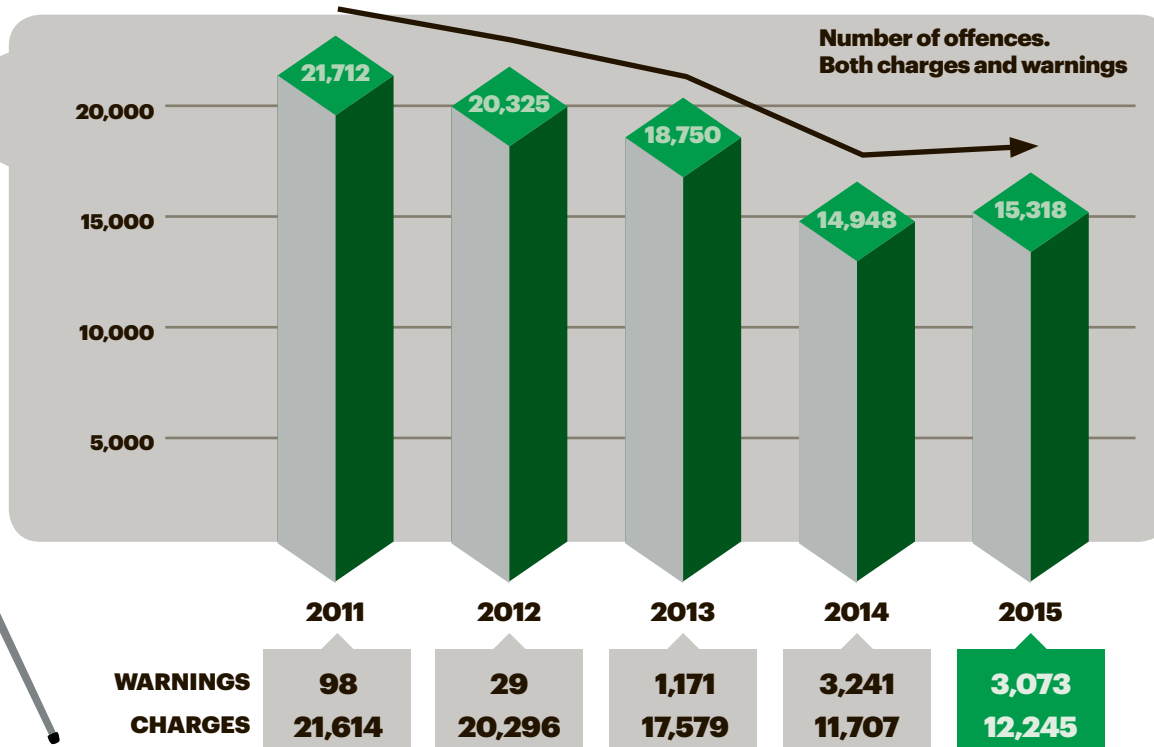
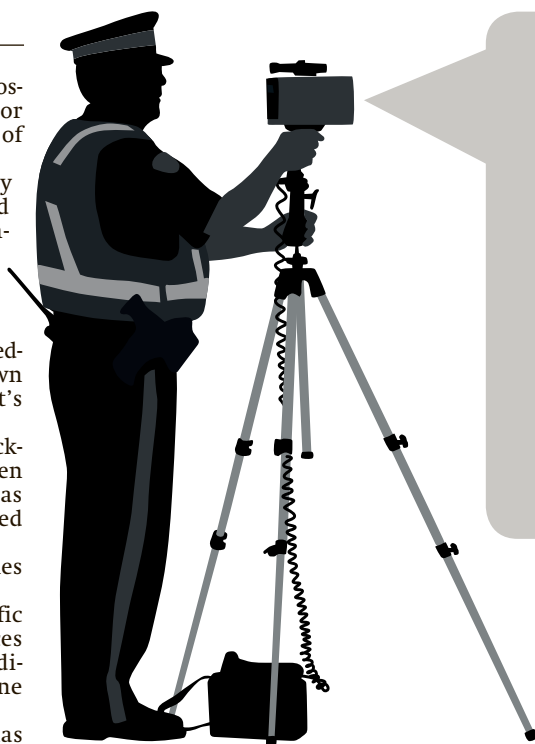
But school zones aren't necessarily speeding hot spots.

According to the data, in 2015 police issued 79 tickets and 55 warnings in community safety zones, which also includes school zones,

information officer Wendy Erfle confirmed.

While that's up from the 26 tickets issued in 2011, it's still a fraction of the total number of tickets handed out each year.

In construction zones, police issued 44 tickets in 2015 compared to 700 in 2011.



TRAFFIC

Council decides photo radar to go in school zones only

Council will pursue photo radar in school zones — and only school zones — after an attempt to "tweak" the project failed Wednesday.

Coun. Riley Brockington has been pushing for speed cameras in Ottawa, but first the city needs to get permission from the province.

Brockington wanted council to ask for broad permission and then figure out the details later.

Instead, Mayor Jim Watson and the transportation committee opted to ask only for permission to pilot the technology in school zones.

That gives staff a chance to collect data before going citywide, Watson argued.

That didn't satisfy Brockington, who tried and failed Wednesday to allow cameras "in the vicinity" of school zones, too.

He said nearby arterials often pose a larger speed-

ing problem than the school zones themselves.

"A segment of our vulnerable citizens ... are at risk in school zones, but they're also at risk the minute they leave their house en route to school," Brockington said.

For example, a section of Bank Street in Old Ottawa

South is a major route for kids walking to Hopewell Public School, but it's not a school zone.

A speed board there found 141 drivers drove between 70 and 125 kilometres per hour in the 40 km/h zone over nine days.

But most councillors sided

with the mayor and voted against the tweak, arguing it would be too open to interpretation.

It was defeated 14 to eight. Councillors Rick Chiarelli and Allan Hubley also voted against asking for photo radar entirely.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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Byward's revamp

CITY HALL

Unanimous approval for facelift, but no car-free zone



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The ByWard Market will soon get a fresh look after city councillors unanimously approved a "revitalization" plan for the neighbourhood.

But a car-free ByWard Market is not part of the plan — nor should it ever be, according to several councillors.

What the plan does include is a \$1-million overhaul of the George Street Plaza, complete with new vendor stalls, seating and a horse fountain.

Although Diane Deans represents the suburban ward of

Gloucester-Southgate, she was vocal in approving the ByWard Market revitalization plan. But she fell short of supporting a pedestrian-only tourist hub, later telling Metro it would be "too far, too fast." Removing surface parking — particularly on York Street — would be a positive step, she said.

"If you take away all of the cars, you are going to make the businesses suffer in that area," added Stittsville Coun. Shad Qadri. Orleans Coun. Bob Monette and Kanata South Coun. Allan Hubley shared similar sentiments.

The notion of a pedestrian-only zone in the city's tourist hub recently made headlines when former New York City transit commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan made the suggestion during a visit.

Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney, who's known for travelling the city on two wheels, is warm to the idea. A future light rail link will



Councillors voted to revamp the George Street Plaza as part of a ByWard Market "revitalization" plan on Wednesday. METRO FILE

allow more people to travel downtown sans cars. Therefore, she said, the city should invest more in infrastructure that gets people walking and cycling.

"A car-free ByWard Market could be one way to achieve this," she wrote in an email.

Also on Wednesday: • Watson and Ottawa Senators player Chris Phillips announced an "Ottawa4FortMac" event to raise funds for residents who

have recently fled the devastating forest fires. That will be at the Aberdeen Pavilion on June 8. Tickets will go on sale next week.

• Councillors approved two 26-storey, car-free student apartment towers on the block between Besserer and Rideau streets.

• After some controversy, two new buildings now have heritage status. Councillors signed off on the label for the Kil-

more house at 21 Withrow Ave. in City View, which was once home to the Confederation-era poet William Wilfred Campbell. The other building is the former Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, at 375 King Edward Ave., which was built for the city's first Jewish congregation. • The new pedestrian bridge over Highway 417 near Coventry Road will be named after the late broadcaster and philanthropist Max Keeping.

MEDIA

Photo suit is settled



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A local photographer who took Boom 99.7 to court over its use of one of his pictures of 24 Sussex Drive has reached a settlement with the radio station.

Photographer Paul Couvrette said he was satisfied with the May 9 agreement. Corus made a public apology Wednesday as part of the settlement, but any monetary agreements are confidential.

"Half of the reason for the lawsuit involved my wishing to make a major statement about my industry and I was happy to see that Corus was open to settling with that provision," Couvrette said in an email.

The original lawsuit claimed damages of \$25,000 because Couvrette said the image had been devalued due to Boom sharing it over social media last year.

On Wednesday the station posted a public apology to their Facebook page.



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Autism plan could change

HEALTH CARE

Wynne would consider direct funding for some families

Premier Kathleen Wynne is leaving the door slightly open to changing the way the Ontario government implements its controversial new autism program.

The Liberal government recently announced a new Ontario Autism Program with \$333 million in funding, which will ultimately integrate Intensive Behavioural Intervention and Applied Behavioural Analysis therapies, currently in two separate streams, into a flexible service they're calling enhanced ABA. But the changes include limiting IBI to children between two and four, as the government says expert advice is to focus on children in that developmental window.

Parents of kids who are removed from the IBI wait-list because of those changes are getting \$8,000 to pay for private treatment ahead of the new program's full roll-out in 2018, but parents say that will only pay for,



Parents of children with autism hold a press conference at Queen's Park in April to protest changes to the Ontario autism program that leave their kids without intensive therapy once they turn five. Premier Wynne said Wednesday some families may receive more direct funding than initially announced. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

at most, a few months of intensive therapy. The government has said the \$8,000 figure would pay for 36 weeks of moderate-level therapy.

Wynne said Wednesday that parents have told her they would

benefit from more direct funding.

"Our response to that is well, the \$8,000 is direct funding and could we look at whether once that \$8K is spent, is there some opportunity to look at situations where families may ac-

tually benefit from more direct funding, as opposed to a direct service model?" she said.

"It's very important that we get this right and so yes, absolutely, there is room to consider how we provide the best tailor-

“She's definitely softened her stance on it.”

Brianne Brown, parent

made service for students and young people because that's the point of this."

Brianne Brown, whose son has been on the IBI waiting list for about 2 1/2 years and will turn five in September, said Wynne's comments are "definitely a back-track."

"She's definitely softened her stance on it, it sounds like," Brown said.

The new age cut-off affects 1,377 children five and older who are already receiving IBI, 835 children in that age group who are on the wait-list, and a further 1,331 younger kids who are expected to turn five while they are still on the wait list.

The government has said its new program will mean 16,000 more children will receive services — mostly ABA — and that IBI wait times will go from a current average of 2 1/2 years to six months by 2021. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Woman found beaten, sexually assaulted in Sandy Hill

Ottawa police have a man in custody after a woman was found "severely beaten" and sexually assaulted in Sandy Hill Tuesday night.

Police responded to the 200 block of Somerset St. East, near King Edward Avenue where they found the woman in a nearby residence. Yves Jean Brisebois, 60, is facing charges of aggravated sexual assault and breach of recognizance. He is scheduled to appear in court Wednesday.

Police say they are looking to speak with witnesses and are concerned there could be more victims.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Man arrested after report of gun at Beacon Hill mall

Ottawa police say they arrested a man at Beacon Hill mall early Wednesday morning after getting reports that he was carrying a gun.

It turned out the gun was not real and police say they arrested the man without incident. Police say they don't expect to lay charges.

JOE LOFARO/METRO



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FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE **metro** NEWS

Evacuees line up for debit cards

RESIDENTS

**Huge turnout
as province
begins handing
out funds**



**Alex
Boyd**
Metro | Edmonton

Patrick Bailey and Korey Sweeney were in line in Edmonton by about 11 a.m. Wednesday, an estimated 100 people already ahead of them.

At the front of the line was what many of them desperately need: Money.

Last week, as a wildfire bore down on Fort McMurray, Bailey and Sweeney only had time to pack enough clothes to fill a duffle bag between them before fleeing. But on Wednesday, they went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton as evacuees, and said the prize at the end of the long queue — debit cards with government money — would be



Fort McMurray wait to be issued with government debit cards pre-loaded with money. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

going toward basic necessities.

"It'll help us get food, rent, just help us get back on our feet basically," Sweeney said.

Premier Rachel Notley announced Wednesday that Alberta will supply Fort McMurray evacuees with debit cards with \$1,250 on them, and also add \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 18.

In response, evacuees from Fort McMurray queued in massive lines in Edmonton Wednesday for the money.

An hour before the government was to start distributing the cards, at 2 p.m., the line already

wound through the Butterdome arena at the University of Alberta campus, out the door, down a ramp and around the block.

The reason was need: For Bailey and Sweeney, it will help pay rent for a new apartment in Edmonton.

"Going up there (to Fort McMurray) is just bad vibes now," said Bailey. "This happened, and you don't know if it's going to happen again. I'd rather start anew."

The debit cards will be available to anyone who had to leave Fort McMurray, regardless of their economic circumstances.

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A home near Hartley Bushell's was destroyed after it caught fire last week. COURTESY HARTLEY BUSHELL

The man who stayed

FORT MCMURRAY

As tens of thousands fled city, some chose to stay



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Hartley Bushell wasn't going to let flaming embers destroy his beautiful backyard.

As wildfires encroached on Fort McMurray last week, causing officials to command a mandatory evacuation order, Bushell stayed back with hoses at the helm.

Bushell didn't do it alone, either. He said he had his wife, Chalinee, at his side.

"My wife was in tears and wanted to leave, but I wouldn't do anything that would endanger her, ever, so I assured her we were going to be OK.

"I didn't want to see it go up in smoke because it would



Hartley Bushell and P.J. the pug. CONTRIBUTED

be a year later that I'd move into a plastic house — somewhere I don't want to be — and it certainly wouldn't have an outdoor kitchen and a water feature."

Sgt. John Spaans, with the Alberta RCMP, said there have been others who stayed put, though he wouldn't say how many, as officers don't want to discourage residents who fled.

He said RCMP can't force people to leave via arrest, unless they pose a danger to themselves and the public.

Bushell was told to leave numerous times, but said he knew he was in the clear.

PROM

Students will still graduate in style



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

With the help of volunteers across the country, Veronica Ostermann is gathering donated prom dresses, tuxedos, shoes and jewelry to help take some of the stress off of those displaced

by the blaze.

"I started a Facebook page and at first it was just 50 people and all of a sudden within 48 hours it expanded to 2,000 wanting to help and donate or collect dresses," she said.

Ostermann said she hopes the donations help Fort McMurray graduates have one less thing to worry about.

Suncor hired analysts to predict fire's path

Suncor Energy has confirmed it used its own analysts to predict the path of wildfires near its facilities in Fort McMurray, and one source told Metro on background that it did so because it thought the government's fire modelling and predictions were potentially flawed.

As wildfires raged in the city, both the government and Suncor had fire prediction specialists that traced the path of the quickly spreading inferno.

Sneh Seetal, spokeswoman

for Suncor Energy, couldn't say Suncor trusted the judgment of government analysts.

"It's not really a yes or no type answer — I think it's too simplistic and doesn't look at the complexity of the unprecedented situation," Seetal said.

"If you look and compare the scope and scale of this fire in relation to others that our nation has seen, I think that pretty much puts things in context. It's an unprecedented situation and I wouldn't want to take away

from the hard work the people had been working night and day."

Mike Long, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, said fire crews with oil and gas companies and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo focused on saving the city and its infrastructure, while government crews targeted the forest.

He said the government and Suncor's analysts shared intel, but didn't provide specifics on the collaboration.

Seetal also didn't say what Suncor's predictions specialists were analyzing.

"I don't have that level of detail," she said. "I'm not sure if I could get that for you quickly."

She said Suncor has dealt with wildfires in the past, and has always had predictions analysts staffed.

On Tuesday, the government met with oil executives to thank the companies for their work in securing facilities and working together. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

ELIZABETH ARDEN

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MONARCHY

Chinese officials 'rude,' says the Queen



Queen Elizabeth II
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 90-year-old Queen has made a rare foray into political affairs, being caught on film characterizing Chinese officials as "very rude" in their dealings with British counterparts during a state visit last year.

Queen Elizabeth II made the unguarded comments Tuesday while talking to a senior police officer at a rain-soaked garden party on the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

With uncharacteristic bluntness the Queen said the Chinese

had not dealt properly with Barbara Woodward, the British envoy to China.

"They were very rude to the ambassador," Elizabeth said.

The comments were recorded by a palace-authorized cameraman working for three British networks and distributed to broadcasters under a pool arrangement allowing them to use the material. Two reporters close to the queen did not hear the comments but they were easily discernible on the videotape.

Elizabeth's broadside was unusual. As a constitutional monarch, she is prohibited from being actively involved in politics. She has assiduously earned a reputation for great discretion, and it is completely out of character for her to publicly criticize another country's diplomats. If anything, she has been so careful to adhere strictly to her defined constitutional role that some commentators say they have no idea what she thinks about world affairs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In India, right-wing activists make offerings to the fire god as they conduct Hindu rituals to ensure a win for U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump's calls to temporarily ban Muslims from America and crack down on terrorist groups have earned him some fans in India. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Trump aiming for party unity

U.S. ELECTION

Front-runner has 92% of the delegates needed

Donald Trump is taking a run at party peacemaking now that voters have put him on a glide path to the Republican nomination. If he can't get restive Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan on side, he says he'll keep on winning anyway.

Trump now has 92 per cent of the delegates he needs to clinch the nomination, according to AP's count, after he earned a hefty haul Tuesday night in West Virginia and Nebraska primaries. He has the field to himself, but after having nearly closed the deal with primary voters, he's facing a Republican estab-

lishment that is deeply wary of his candidacy but has nowhere else to go.

Trump and Ryan are to meet Thursday, days after the speaker — the nation's top elected Republican — withheld his endorsement. Asked on Fox News what will happen if the meeting does not go well, Trump said: "We'll trudge forward and do like I've been doing, and win all the time."

Despite his unconcerned tone, much rides on the relationship he forges with party leaders. Trump's bare-bones campaign has glaring deficiencies the party apparatus is uniquely positioned to address. The New York businessman has largely ignored collecting information on voters he needs to turn out in November, sent few staff to battleground states and taken no steps to build a fundraising network.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Allegation by Philippine VP candidate rebuffed

Philippine election officials challenged Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to prove his allegation of irregularities in the counting of votes for vice-president, where he has been overtaken by his closest rival.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI head: Daesh brand losing attraction in U.S.

Fewer Americans are travelling to fight alongside Daesh and the power of the extremist group's brand has diminished in the United States, FBI director James Comey said Wednesday, with the number averaging about one a month since last summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THAILAND

Students use smart technology to take cheating to a new level



Students in Thailand are using smartwatches and glasses embedded with cameras to help them cheat on exams. ISTOCK

Glasses with embedded cameras and smartwatches with stored information seem like regular spy equipment for the likes of James Bond, but for some students in Thailand, they are high-technology cheating devices.

Bangkok's Rangsit University cancelled its examinations on Saturday and Sunday for admission to its medical and dental faculties following the discovery of the unusual modus operandi by three female students.

While cheating has long been

a problem in Thai schools and colleges, the use of high-tech gear — the cameras were used to take pictures of the test sheet and the smartwatches to receive answers from someone outside — has taken the practice to a whole new plane.

"We've never found cheating of this level — involving high-technology," university official Kittisak Tripipatpornchai said.

Cheating is a marked aberration in the list of good behaviour expected of Thais. From a young

age, Thais are taught to be polite, tolerant, and respectful. But educators say cheating has flourished because of an education system that makes exam scores the only criterion for assessing a student's ability and granting admission into places of higher learning.

The three students caught red-handed have been blacklisted by the university and will not be allowed to take the replacement exams on May 31 and June 1.

It was an elaborate scheme. Three agents posing as students

photographed the question sheets with tiny cameras embedded in their eyeglasses. They left the room after the mandatory 45 minute lock-in period and transferred the pictures to a laptop manned by another person. That person transmitted the images to one or more private tutorial institutes where the three students were enrolled. Exam answers were then electronically transmitted to the smartwatches worn by the women, still in the examination room. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google bans all ads for payday loans

FINANCE

These types of lenders have been target of criticism

Internet giant Google said Wednesday it will ban all ads from payday lenders, calling the industry "deceptive" and "harmful."

Google's decision could have as much or even more impact on curtailing the industry than any move by politicians, as many payday loans start with a desperate person searching online for ways to make ends meet or cover an emergency.

Effective July 13, Google will no longer allow ads for loans due within 60 days and will also ban ads for loans where the interest rate is 36 per cent or higher. The industry will join Google's other banned categories of ads, such as counterfeit goods, weapons, explosives, to-

bacco products and hate speech. "Our hope is that fewer people will be exposed to misleading or harmful products," said David Graff, Google's director of global product policy, in a blog post that announced the policy change.

Payday lenders have long been a target of criticism by politicians and consumer advocates, who argue the industry charges extremely high interest rates to customers, who are often the poor. Payday loans are often used to cover an unexpected expense or to make ends meet before the next paycheck. But for many borrowers, short-term loans wind up being difficult to pay off, leading to a cycle of debt that can drag on for months.

A 2012 study by Pew showed the average payday borrower is in debt for five months, spending \$520 in fees and interest to repeatedly borrow \$375. The annual per cent rate on a payday loan is 391 per cent, according to Pew. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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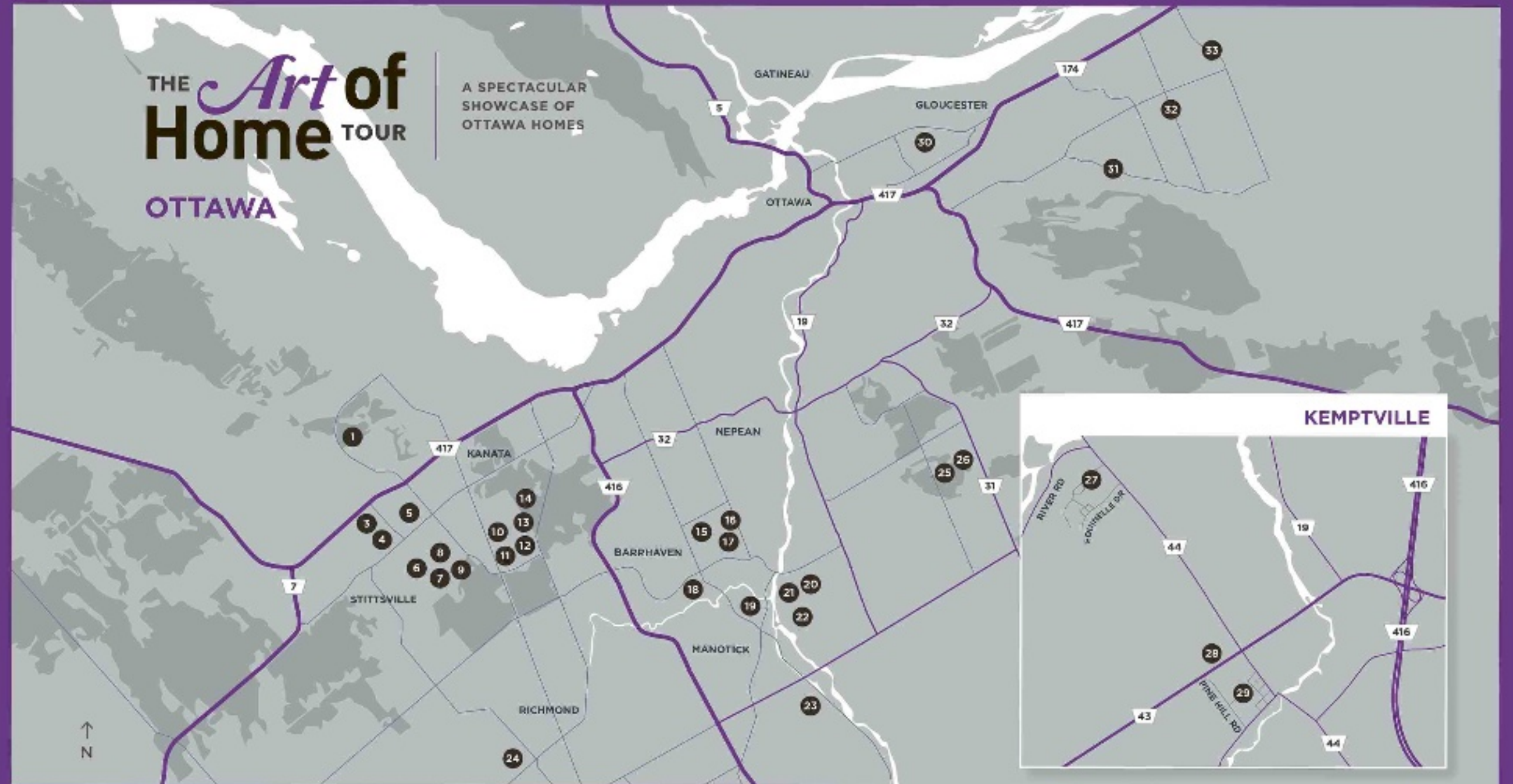
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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON VOTING REFORM



Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

Among Justin Trudeau's commitments, few are as time-sensitive as his promise to have a new voting system in place for the 2019 federal election.

And so, as the weeks turned into months and eventually into more than half a year without any action from the incoming government, questions arose as to how committed the Liberals were to a promise they had made when they were twice removed from power.

Elections Canada needs about two years to have a new voting system up and running for the 2019 campaign. Presuming that the Liberals' promised electoral reform in good faith, only the search for a way to invest as much legitimacy as possible in the process could justify the delay.

Instead, on Thursday, the mountain gave birth to a mouse in the shape of a parliamentary committee that is special only in name. Its makeup replicates the very distortions that the Liberals claim to want to redress through electoral reform.

Like every other committee on Parliament Hill, it will feature a Liberal majority made up, in this case, of six government MPs with three Conservatives and one New Democrat rounding up the

lot. The Bloc Québécois and the Green Party have been each assigned a seat, albeit at the equivalent of the children's table. Their respective representative will have no

on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

As if Liberal control of the committee was not enough, there is no commitment on the part of the government

MPs and senators who toiled diligently on the medically assisted death file only to see the thrust of their report ignored by the government, this committee could amount to little more than a make-work project designed to allow the Liberals to check an item off their bucket list.

There has for a long time been an implicit convention that in matters that pertain to the elections law, governments should strive to secure a consensus that extends beyond their own ranks.

Yes, the Conservatives broke that convention when they last overhauled the election law. But the Liberals promised to do better. Their actions on the electoral reform front so far fall short of that commitment.

Where legitimacy should have been striven for, opposition suspicions that the Liberals want to use this process to either give their party a permanent electoral edge or more simply to sabotage it have instead been reinforced.

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder — as long as they could blame someone else for it.

Looking at how Trudeau has stacked the electoral reform deck, a cynic could conclude that his bid to move to a different voting system is programmed to fail if not in the Liberal-controlled House of Commons, then in a Senate conveniently once-removed from the government.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.



Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions, and **Dominic LeBlanc, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons**, announced Wednesday a House committee will study alternative voting systems. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

voting rights.

The latter is generous only by the standard of the parliamentary rule that denies official status and de facto committee spots to parties that fail to elect at least 12 MPs. But in the larger picture, the condescending Liberal approach to the place of the smaller parties in the electoral reform debate amounts to treating the 1.5 million Canadians who supported the Bloc and the Green Party last fall as second-tier voters.

Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in

that it would use its majority to introduce a new voting system unilaterally and no pledge to submit the result to a plebiscite before implementing it.

If only based on the calendar, there is no time to both bring a new voting system to a referendum and put it in place for the next federal election. A committee set up on the eve of the dead political season that is the Canadian summer will already have to take more than a few short-cuts if it is going to a) consult widely and b) come up with a recommendation in time for a Dec. 1 deadline.

Mind you, based on the recent experience of the

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD metroview

Finally, we hear that famous Ghomeshi voice again

Finally, he spoke.

After 18 months of near-perfect silence, we heard that voice. Still full-bodied and low-toned. Still strong — projecting to the judge and behind him to the benches of reporters and his ever-present mother and sister.

It was Jian Ghomeshi, yes. But that voice, once his golden ticket, was used in a way we haven't heard before: In an apology.

At 10:09 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Ghomeshi stood in a half-filled courtroom at Toronto's Old City Hall to comply with the key component of the peace bond that cut short a second trial for a single charge of sexual assault and provided this swift, preemptive end to his legal woes. He said sorry to Kathryn Borel, once a producer on Q, his CBC radio show.

"I want to apologize to Ms. Borel for my behaviour towards her in the workplace," he began, his voice unmistakable.

Except now, in place of the come-hither croon, Ghomeshi gave carefully constructed distance. He used the impersonal diction of a disgraced politician ("I did not recognize that I crossed boundaries inappropriately"). He read the words, but without feeling.

And he spoke swiftly, like a man on a mission. Which he was. The statement led

to the withdrawal of the final criminal charges against him and an end to the headlines and the kind of life where one of your closest confidantes is your lawyer.

There was only a vague reference to the specific incident — that he came up behind Borel at work and "held her waist and pressed his pelvis back and forth, repeatedly into her buttocks," to quote the Crown.

"This incident was thoughtless and I was insensitive," Ghomeshi said.

A letter submitted to court from Ghomeshi's therapist commended his "great commitment and focus" to understanding his behaviour. It was intended to underline his sincerity, but that's a hard thing to prove when Ghomeshi gets so much for seemingly so little: Legally, his apology holds no weight of guilt. Precise and clearly rehearsed, it also functions as a coming-out for the man who was once defined by his ubiquitous celebrity.

Still, for Borel, it offered the "clearest path to the truth."

And it was she who had the last word of the day.

"There are 20 other women who have come forward to the media and made serious allegations about his violent behaviour," she said outside the courthouse. "I think we all want this to be over. But it won't be until he admits to everything that he's done."

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder.

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It's OK to be a nervous weirdo

HOT DOG TASTE TEST

Lisa Hanawalt's confessional comics a peek into her anxiety

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



When cartoonist Lisa Hanawalt was a kid, she took riding lessons, which turned her already fanatical love of horses into a life-long obsession. "It was something I glommed onto and couldn't shake it," she says. "I tried to."

Hanawalt's equine friends pop up throughout all her work, most famously in the characters she designed for Netflix's first animated series, the cult-favourite BoJack Horseman, starring Will Arnett as the voice of a boozy, has-been sitcom star. Her new comics collection, Hot Dog Taste Test, published by Drawn & Quarterly, gathers many of Hanawalt's favourite things — anthropomorphized creatures with often gross human foibles and desires, food

diaries and lists, interspersed with just the right amount of scatological humour. Many of the illustrated stories first appeared in David Chang's trendy food-culture magazine, Lucky Peach, including her first-hand account of shadowing chef Wylie Dufresne for a day (referring to the tasty stuffing inside his ravioli dish as "sex cheese").

Unlike horses, food was not an obsession for young Hanawalt. A self-described finicky eater who preferred plain mashed potatoes, she is now a fearless connoisseur, willing to try anything from spicy pigeon to viscachas, a pickled rodent meat she purchased in jars while visiting Argentina. Food as a theme gives Hanawalt plenty of material, too. "I can really explore the outer edges of what is even tangentially related to food because it's such an important aspect of life," she says.

Hanawalt, who is a special guest at this weekend's Toronto Comic Arts Festival, is one of those gifted creative types who can write and draw equally well, and has a seemingly endless fount of productive energy, although she says she often goes to bed feeling like she hasn't accomplished enough. (She also

hosts a popular podcast, Baby Geniuses, with her friend, comedian Emily Heller.)

Her work often starts with ideas she's jotted down or with some absentminded doodles from her sketchbook. She claims she can take on an impulsive "manic persona" when she's drawing.

While there are no shortage of sly gags, Hot Dog Taste Test also features several sentimental stories, with Hanawalt confessing anxieties over family matters, travel fears, social relations — often times told through the voices of her wildlife characters. While Hanawalt enjoys reading confessional, diary comics, she's never been comfortable making them, and so it forces her to try to understand why she needs to share certain feelings with the world.

"Maybe it's that I just want to reach out to the reader and say, Hey, are you like a nervous weirdo, too? It's OK, we'll get through this. It's OK to have these thoughts and feel uncomfortable. And it's me telling myself that, too."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Lisa Hanawalt's new book features several sentimental stories that reveal her anxieties.

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The trouble with capitalism

RICH AND POOR

New novel is a parable of corporate culture

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



"My spare room funds my expeditions," states an outdoor adventurer named Jeff in a new Airbnb billboard near the foot of Yonge Street in Toronto. It's part of the company's first major ad campaign in Canada as so-called disruptive American businesses gain a foothold here.

While the sharing economy is praised by self-described hustlers for allowing us all to become entrepreneurs, author

Jacob Wren sees it as a troubling form of "turbo capitalism," forcing us to monetize all aspects of our lives — our homes, cars, and friendships.

"You used to just be able to live in your home but now you have to rent it out every time you leave in order to survive," says Wren, 44, who lives in Montreal.

Wren's new novel, *Rich and Poor* (Bookthug, \$20), is more than a critique of capitalism and

profit-obsessed society.

It's a parable examining corporate culture — the way it makes us calculating, unscrupulous and ultimately disposable. Even the billionaire executive realizes "no matter how talented, qualified or indispensable I think I might be, there's always someone else who can do the job."

Inspired by the discourse started by the Occupy movement, Wren says he's intrigued by the discussion caused by the popular protest, and more recently the Panama Papers.

"I remember before Occupy talking to some not particularly 'left' friends, and them all saying shut up about capitalism, no one talks about that anymore," says Wren.

"As Occupy was bringing questions of wealth and inequality into the public and creating new terms like The One Per Cent, suddenly the same people were willing to talk about capitalism and think about what it is and think about how much money is actually being hoarded in offshore accounts."

Wren says these are important issues for his generation, which is said to have less money and fewer opportunities than their parents.

The two main narrators are only known to the reader as No. 1 — the billionaire — and No. 2, a talented pianist who now washes dishes for a living.

No. 2 seeks revenge for the way life has betrayed him, and so he decides that "The poor must kill the rich, one at a time, at every opportunity." He wants to strangle No. 1 with piano wire, and set an example for others to imitate.

Wren read popular business

books and CEO biographies to help develop character No. 1, a brilliant executive who memorizes all his employees names and is unusually candid about his company's misconduct.

He says it was a pleasure to write from this perspective, though he admits the mashup is not going to be recognizable as any single person, either living or in popular culture.

"I don't think any actual capitalist will think I've gotten them right," says Wren. "It's a very biased, playful mischievous take on that kind of character, and that kind of larger-than-life figure who rejoices in being a capitalist and also is willing to admit all the problems of it," he says.

In many ways, *Rich and Poor* is a parody of the typical capitalist villain, says Wren.

For instance, No. 1 considers finding another "trophy wife" but at his age decides it's in bad taste, instead opting for a prostitute because he sees a "pure economic transaction" as "the most clean, the most precise method of fulfilling desires and needs."

If there's commonality between the two narrators, it's in the way both seem unable to maintain relationships and their dysfunctional view on friendship.

No. 2 defines a friend as someone who can "betray you more savagely, more painfully, than anyone else in the world." For this reason, he seeks imitators, not friends.

Meanwhile, No. 1 stabs his best friend in the back to save himself.

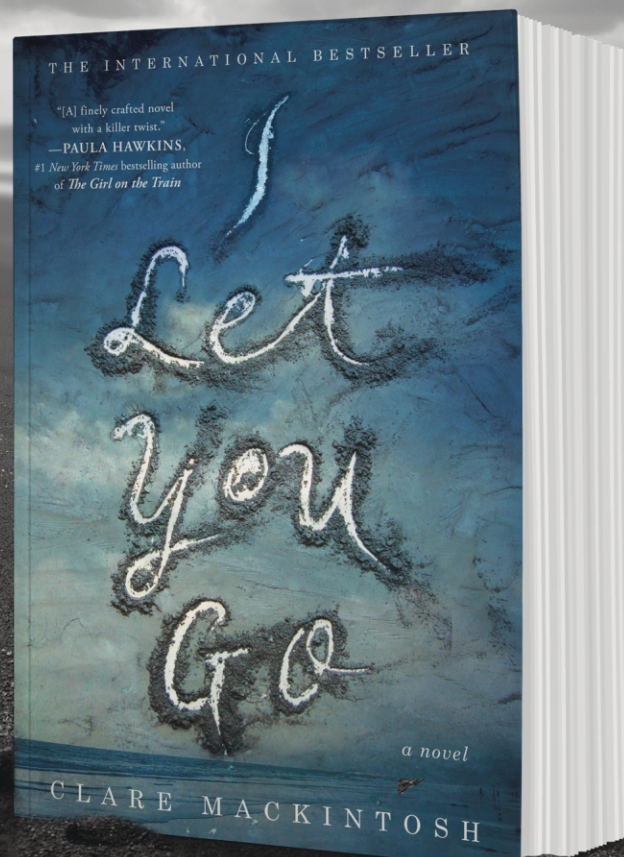
"We could say this is kind of the ultimate capitalist manoeuvre — to keep your wealth by betraying those closest to you," says Wren.

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Jacob Wren, 44, author of *Rich and Poor*. CONTRIBUTED



MEET THE CONDO

Green condo on Sparks Street

Project overview

Cathedral Hill condos have recently been completed in downtown Ottawa. The project, which began in 2012, is now ready for homeowners to move in. The building is an environmentally conscious project which is also meant to encourage a healthy lifestyle. It offers covered, secure bicycle parking, as well as a bike and ski-tuning room.

Housing amenities

The units have a modern, clean aesthetic look with thermofoil cabinets, quartz counters and nine-foot ceilings. The rooms are spacious, with beautiful hardwood floors, wood veneer kitchen cupboards and Energy Star-rated appliances. As for the building itself, it includes a workout facility, a party room, a car-wash station and a concierge.

In the neighbourhood

The building has stunning views of the Ottawa River and Gatineau Park, is close to parkland areas, a kayak run to the west, and plenty of walking and biking paths. The neighbourhood also features the historic Christ Church Cathedral. Its central location on Sparks Street makes it easy to access all Ottawa has to offer.

Location and transit

Cathedral Hill is right in the core of downtown Ottawa. Practically all the essentials are within walking distance, including banks, restaurants, hotels and shops. The site has easy access to Bronson Avenue and primary bus routes, while the upcoming Lyon LRT station is only block away.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

CATHEDRAL HILL CONDOS



CONTRIBUTED

+ NEED TO KNOW

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Pricing: Starting at \$350,000

Model: Two to three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms
Status: For sale
Occupancy: Anytime
Sales centre: 436 Sparks St.
Phone: 613-867-0659
Website: cathedralhill.ca

DESIGN

When moving in together, couples learn to compromise

For couples setting up a new home together, it's a challenge: how to merge two sets of stuff and two decorating styles into one space they both can love.

"Emotions get really high when it comes to your belongings if the person you're choosing to spend the rest of your life with doesn't love what you love," says stylist Marianne Canada, host of the HGTV Crafternoon web series.

In our increasingly design-savvy world, many people come to coupledhood with a clear idea of how their home should look.

Even when couples try to accommodate conflicting tastes, they run into the space issue.

"Most of us just don't have room for two full households together," Canada says. "You have to make some choices."

Here, Canada and two other interior designers — California-based Betsy Burnham and Florida-based Laura Burleson — offer advice on mixing, matching and peacefully negotiating a merger of two homes.

Claim your favourites
Each person probably has a

few treasured pieces of furniture or art that they can't imagine living without. Burnham suggests that partners agree to each keep perhaps three or four of these pieces in their shared home. If one partner truly dislikes one of the other's absolute favourites, consider changing the piece a little through painting or reupholstering.

Go with the contrast
Once those favourite pieces are chosen, Burnham suggests creating a clean slate by paint-

ing the walls a crisp white or a white shade with just a hint of colour. Then look at all the remaining furniture against this new backdrop as though you were shopping. Rather than trying to group items that are similar, experiment with pairing those that contrast. All three designers say contrast can be the best part of decor. Couples merging two households "have such a leg up, design-wise," says Burleson, because they can creatively mix and layer a wide range of decor into one stylish space.

Try new locations
As you assess your remaining furniture and accessories, consider placing things in rooms where they've never been. "You don't have to make that big leather recliner work in your traditional living room," Canada says, even if that's where it's always been. What about using it in your bedroom for late-night reading? Small dressers can serve as end tables or sideboards, while end tables can be used as bedside tables. Living room seating can make a guest room cozier, while a

kitchen table can add extra dining space to a family room.

Shop together

Buying a few new pieces can tie together a couple's shared decor and help both partners feel at home. "Maybe they go shopping," Burnham says, "and they find some great vintage rugs that neither one of them knew they loved." This includes accessories and artwork: Canada suggests buying one powerful piece of art to be a focal point in your newly shared space. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Adding a tropical punch this season

Furnishings and accessories made of tropical plant and tree fibers started to appear in the fall, in modern vintage and midcentury pieces. That trend has expanded for spring and summer to wall coverings, textiles and rugs printed with imagery drawn from the jungle, beach and rainforest. **TEXT AND IMAGES BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



1 Prints and soft touches

A palm-printed pillow can freshen a sofa or chair. You'll find a collection of throw pillows and shower curtains with big, bold palm-leaf prints at H&M Home. "There can be an element of late '70s/early '80s kitsch to it," says Joss & Main's style director Donna Garlough. "I recently watched a rerun of 'Golden Girls' and laughed my head off over all the tropical elements on that set that have come back into vogue, from the rattan furniture to the macrame plant hangers. Blanche even had that famous palm wallpaper in her bedroom."

Playful toucans peek out from behind bamboo branches on a whimsical, tropical print throw pillow from H & M Home. A vintage style palm leaf print graces a chic throw pillow from H&M Home. handm.com

2 Texture

Add a few inexpensive rattan pieces to your home. The textures contrast nicely with contemporary furniture's trim lines, and bring homey charm to more bohemian spaces. Rattan also works as a foil for both bright and neutral hues.

Seagrass fibers are woven together to create a smart little ottoman as shown. The textural piece adds a touch of the tropics to spring and summer decor. dotandbo.com

3 Playful

Overstock.com has Tommy Bahama's Tropical Hibiscus throw pillow and a chic white pineapple table lamp. Flamingo-printed sheets bring the theme into the bedroom, and the pink bird struts across a preppy-striped rug.

A pink flamingo struts across a preppy striped rug shown here from Overstock.

Bedding with a fun flamingo print is shown and is an easy way to introduce tropical decor.

A white ceramic pineapple lamp, shown, is a chic accessory that brings a touch of the tropics into a space. Overstock.com



Planting a garden to Bee the change

BOOK

Apartment or condo living doesn't mean you can't help

Just as citizens created victory gardens for food during the world wars, we need to plant pollen- and nectar-rich gardens to save the bees. That's the message Lori Weidenhammer lays out in *Victory Gardens for Bees*. Weidenhammer, a bee expert and garden educator in Vancouver, spoke to the Star about the bee-benefits of lavender, goldenrod and rotting stumps.

How much is the bee population declining? What are the causes?

There are two sides to the crisis. The honeybees, introduced by Europeans, are suffering from Colony Collapse Disorder (the loss of hives due to pesticides, mites and other causes). There are also 800 spe-

cies of native bees in Canada and they're fantastic pollinators but have undergone a huge population crash. The main problem is habitat loss. Both honeybees and native bees need millions of flowers. But they need the right kind, which is why I wrote the book.

Why should we be troubled?

We all eat. About one out of every three mouthfuls of food has been pollinated by bees. A lot of the colourful, healthy foods are bee-pollinated.

A garden to lure bees may be a hard sell. People are afraid of getting stung.

Honeybees and bumblebees sting. People need to learn some safety tips. Most bees, however, don't sting. A bee garden is going to attract more bees that don't sting than do. Most people get stung by

wasps and blame bees.

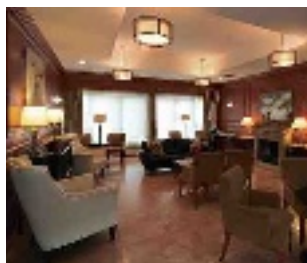
What makes a good bee plant?

One that has both nectar and pollen. Bees and flowers evolved together, so it depends on the type of bee. For instance, a long-tongued bumblebee needs a flower with a long nectary, such as scarlet bee balm, so the tongue can go down to sip the nectar. The most common colours attractive to bees are blue, purple and yellow. A lot of white flowers have purple spots that are nectar guides.

Examples of ideal plants?

Lavender, rosemary, thyme — herbs with scent — are like magnets drawing bees into the garden. Sunflowers are like a buffet for bees, with many feeding together. Roses — not the tight tea roses but the blousy dog roses and wild roses — are awesome.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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"We're not for sale, but let me tell you what. If somebody shows up with \$4 billion, we can talk": Dana White on reports UFC is up for sale

Crawford-Boucher link 'went a long way back'

SENATORS

Coaches laid path to work together while in Switzerland

Marc Crawford just wanted to be back in the NHL.

A former NHL coach of the year who spent the last four seasons coaching in Switzerland, Crawford was one of a number of candidates interviewed for the opening with the Ottawa Senators that eventually went to Guy Boucher.

Within hours of being hired, Boucher approached Crawford and offered him the opportunity to join his staff as an associate coach.

While a Stanley Cup-winning coach joining Boucher's staff as an assistant may have surprised some, the two had actually discussed the possibility before the job was even open.

"The preparation for this went a long way back, as much as two and half years ago," Crawford said. "Guy and I had talked when he was trying to search for a job in Switzerland,

549

The number of wins Marc Crawford has under his belt as an NHL head coach.

and when he left to go back to Canada I told him 'Hey listen if you get a job in the NHL please consider me for an assistant.'

"We had talked again about if either one of us got a job would the other one come. He told me he wouldn't come with me, but I told him yeah I would come with you."

Crawford said he made attempts over the past four years to get back into the NHL and most recently contacted management in Calgary and Anaheim about openings, but was given the impression they were looking in another direction.

Crawford brings a wealth of experience to Boucher's staff. He was a head coach for 1,151 NHL games, which ranks 16th in league history, posting a career record of 549-421-100-77 over 15 seasons in Quebec/Colorado, Vancouver, Los Angeles

When nobody cares who gets the credit then that's usually when you have a good team. That's what I'm about.

Marc Crawford



Former NHL coach of the year Marc Crawford is ready to accept his role as assistant coach in Ottawa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

and Dallas. He was coach of the year with Quebec in 1995 and won the Stanley Cup in 1996 after the Nordiques moved to Denver.

Boucher and Crawford are both known as emotional coaches, and there won't be a lack of enthusiasm among the two.

"The chemistry and the fit I feel is really, really good," Crawford said. "A lot of people will say we're both passionate

people and we are, but I think Guy's going to do a terrific job and I know that I'm going to have to obviously dial it down a bit and that's always what the assistant coach has to do."

Thankful for the opportunity to return to the NHL, Crawford believes he has a lot to offer.

"I'm a team player and I know I'm going to be able to adjust to the new role, I'm loving the fact that I have this role

and I'm going to help Guy in any way that I possibly can," he said. "Loyalty is huge in any staff and the head coach has to know that you've got his back and that's what I've told Guy all along. I'm going to have your back and I'm going to do everything I can to make you the best head coach that you can be and along the way we're going to have some fun."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bouchard upsets second seed, Raonic bows out

Eugenie Bouchard reached the third round of the Italian Open with an upset of second seed Angelique Kerber on Wednesday, while fellow Canadian Milos Raonic was ousted by recent nemesis Nick Kyrgios.

Bouchard, once ranked as high as fourth in the world before a disastrous 2015 season derailed her rise to stardom, defeated Kerber 6-1, 5-7, 7-5.

Raonic, meanwhile, fell 7-6 (5), 6-3 to Kyrgios, who has won three straight matches against the Canadian. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ovi joins Team Russia

The Russian Hockey Federation says it is calling up forward Alex Ovechkin and Washington Capitals teammates Evgeny Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov for the world championships.

The Capitals lost in six games to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the second round of the NHL playoffs on Tuesday.

Russia's next game is against Denmark on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sunderland victory ousts Newcastle and Norwich

Sunderland completed its latest escape from relegation in the English Premier League on Wednesday and consigned bitter northeast rival Newcastle to the second tier in the process.

A 3-0 win over Everton guaranteed safety for Sunderland with a game to spare this season, justifying its decision to

hire survival specialist Sam Allardyce as manager in October.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Go to **metronews.ca** for coverage of Heat-Raptors Game 5.

MLB

Blue Jays fall in extras, denied sweep of Giants



The Blue Jays had their hands full facing Giants ace Madison Bumgarner on Wednesday. THEARON W. HENDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

Buster Posey walked with the bases loaded in the 13th inning and the San Francisco Giants salvaged one victory in a three-game series with the Toronto Blue Jays, winning 5-4 on Wednesday.

Brandon Belt was hit by a pitch to open the inning and Denard Span's bunt attempt was mishandled at second. Following a wild pitch, Joe Panik was walked intentionally.

Matt Duffy lined out to first base before Posey saw four straight balls from Ryan Tepera (0-1).

WEDNESDAY In S.F.

5 GIANTS **4** BLUE JAYS

Albert Suarez (1-0) pitched an inning for his first major-league victory.

Madison Bumgarner pitched 6-2/3 solid innings, allowing one run on three hits. He owns a 1.87 ERA over his last five starts.

Bumgarner retired 12 of 14 batters during one stretch. He

walked four and struck out five.

Michael Saunders, who entered the game as a pinch hitter in the seventh, led off the ninth with a home run to straightaway centre against closer Santiago Casilla, who blew his third save.

Hunter Pence and Gregor Blanco each doubled home a run and Span drove in a run for the Giants, who had lost five of seven.

Josh Donaldson collected four hits, walked and scored a pair of runs for the Blue Jays, who had won five of seven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RECIPE Flatbread Pizza



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is one of those dishes that doesn't really require a recipe. A flatbread pizza is an easy end of day meal win because it uses leftovers and comes together easy.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 large flatbread
- 1/3 cup pasatta (lightly seasoned, pureed tomatoes)

- 6 mushrooms, sliced thinly
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup ricotta
- 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- 1/3 zucchini, sliced with a vegetable peeler into ribbons
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
- salt and pepper to taste

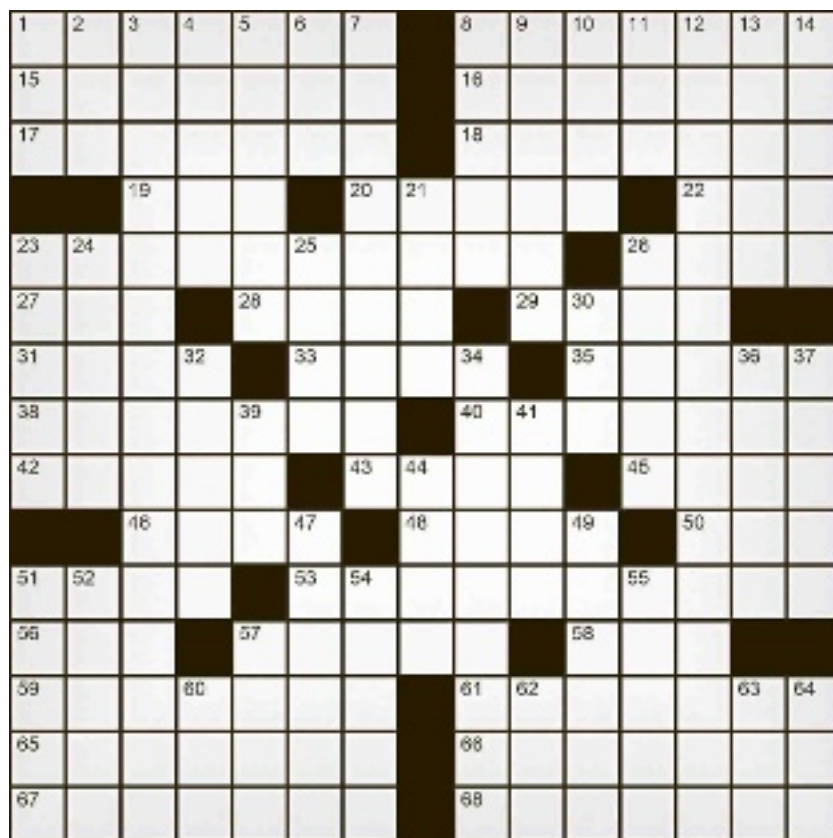
Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400. Arrange all your ingredients on your flatbread and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and vegetables are fork tender.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Belonging to Massachusetts' capital city
8. Shoppers Drug Mart: _ Card
15. Undetected, like some fighter aircraft
16. Wealth
17. To the point
18. _ Pops (Candy-filled treats on a stick)
19. Six and Eight separator, wee-ly
20. Harped on
22. Incurred
23. Canadian magazine since 1928
26. Coastal birds
27. Former military General's abbr.
28. Some rodents
29. Jean Arp's art
31. Dismounted
33. Livelinesses
35. Posh sofa
38. Miami's locale
40. Sugar pill, in clinical trials
42. Gin and _
43. Function
45. Larger _ life
46. _ acetate (Banana oil)
48. Challenger
50. Devoured
51. Mr. Mineo's
53. No need for the whispers, it's a known thing: 2 wds.
56. Will Smith movie
57. _ 99 (Maxwell Smart's colleague)
58. Male swan
59. Cough drop
61. Cut from the

copy: 2 wds.
65. ' _ Beyond...': 1979 album for British ska band Madness
66. 1981 Blondie hit
67. Empty _ (Couples with unused-extra-bedrooms)

68. Administer an oath of office: 2 wds.

DOWN

1. Particular letters for a grad
2. Prefix to 'logist' (Ear doctor)
3. Tells a tabloid type of tale
4. Be silent, in music
5. !-ending

musical
6. Days opp.
7. Cry: 3 wds.
8. Frequently
9. Combined, as resources
10. Horse gait
11. Cousin _
12. Newfoundland town on the Kittiwake

Coast: 2 wds.
13. Alliance
14. Gets introduced to
21. Bit of bangs
23. Artsy creation
24. Adele tune
25. Force in California's largest city [acronym]
26. Decree
30. Inman's love in "Cold Mountain" (2003)
32. Crops
34. Wood worker's woes
36. Taper off
37. Three trios
39. Glacial
41. Spike and Bruce
44. Stove
47. Lumberjack
49. Food formula
51. Beauty parlour
52. Flying solo
54. Baby bird sounds
55. Terra _ flower pots
57. 'A' of AM
60. Founded, for short
62. "See Saw Margery _" (18th-century nursery rhyme)
63. Mr. Geller
64. Downing's political address number in Britain

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today because you're in a resourceful frame of mind. You might act on an old idea you had for making money.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today to see how you can improve your appearance. What you see might be something you have been thinking about doing for a while.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day for research, because you will apply yourself diligently to whatever it is you are looking for. Yes, you'll be like a dog with a bone.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might attract someone very powerful to you today. This person might say something that actually causes you to modify your goals for the future.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Conversations with bosses, parents and VIPs will be memorable today. Quite likely, they will ask you about old business. Perhaps they want you to account for something.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you discuss politics, religion or racial issues today, you will get serious. Likewise, this is a good day to study thoughtful subjects.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might see a new way to tackle problems about inheritances or shared property. Old disputes might be solved now because of a new way of thinking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with others are powerful today. This might be because you are coming on strong or because others are coming on strong. Whatever happens, listen carefully.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce improvements and reforms at work, because you will see them today. Likewise, you might see ways to improve your own health.

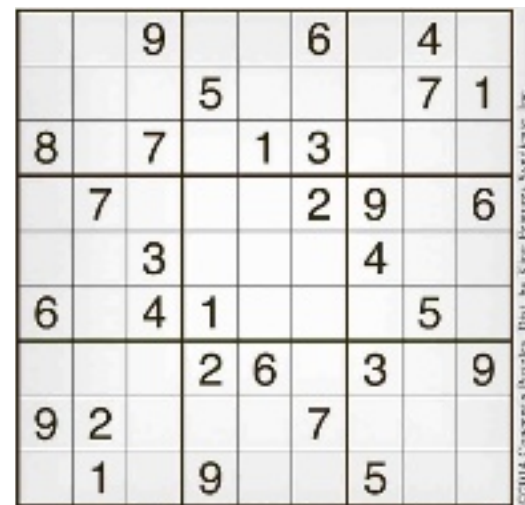
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a romantic obsession today. Be careful, because this kind of fantasy can overtake your sense of perspective and reality. Try to see things as they really are.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your ideas about how to make improvements at home probably are solid. Talk to a family member to get agreement with someone. Then it will be all systems go.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You have penetrating insights into whatever you think about or talk about today, because your mind is like a laser. You see the reasons behind things, the subtext.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



More birdies and eagles
for less loonies

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